

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 40, claims 18 to 22, 24 to 30 and 32 to 39 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 18 to 22, 24 to 30, and 32 to 39 have been allowed.

III. Rejection of Claim 40 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of European Published Patent Application No. 1 231 701 ("Ohnuma") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,797 ("Aulanko"). While Applicant does not agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 40 has been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter in a separate application. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present rejection is moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 17, 2008

By:  /
Clifford A. Ulrich
Reg. No. 42,194

KENYON & KENYON LLP
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200
CUSTOMER NO. 26646